

Claims

What is Claimed is:

1. A system, comprising:

a plug-in data structure to store plug-in data, the plug-in data structure including an initial list and an end list; and

a plug-in manager to read the plug-in data structure and start plug-ins corresponding to an order in the plug-in data structure, wherein the plug-in manager starts plug-ins on the initial list prior to plug-ins on the end list.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in data structure further includes a method and the plug-in manager accesses the method to read the plug-in data structure.
3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in data structure contains a variable and the plug-in manager starts plug-ins unlisted on the initial list and end list between the plug-ins on the initial list and the end list when the variable is set.
4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in data structure contains a variable and the plug-in manager starts plug-ins unlisted on the initial list and end list in response to a request from a user.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in data includes names for the plug-ins.
6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in manager forms a startup sequence after reading the plug-in data structure.
7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in data is dynamically alterable.
8. The system according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in manager starts the plug-ins in a current thread.
9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in manager starts the plug-ins in a background thread.
10. A software package, comprising:
 - a core application;
 - a plurality of plug-ins, each plug-in providing a corresponding specific service to the core application;
 - a plug-in data structure to store plug-in data; and

a plug-in manager to manage starting of the plurality of plug-ins into the core application, wherein the plug-in manager assembles a startup sequence from the plug-in data structure and manages the starting of the plug-ins in an order the plug-ins appear in the startup sequence.

11. The software package according to claim 10, wherein the plug-in data structure includes an initial list, a first one of the plurality of plug-ins is on the initial list and is a first plug-in in the startup sequence.
12. The software package according to claim 10, wherein the plug-in data structure includes an end list, a first one of the plurality of plug-ins is on the end list and is a last plug-in in the startup sequence.
13. The software package according to claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of plug-ins unused in assembling the startup sequence is started in response to a request from the core application.
14. The software package according to claim 10, wherein the plug-in manager assembles the startup sequence and manages the starting of the plug-ins prior to performing another operation.

15. The software package according to claim 10, wherein the startup sequence is dynamically alterable.

16. A system, comprising:

a reading element to retrieve plug-ins on one of an initial list and an end list; and

a starting element to start the retrieved plug-ins, wherein the plug-ins on the initial list are started prior to the plug-ins on the end list.

17. The system according to claim 16, wherein the plug-ins on the initial list are started in an order corresponding to an order in which the plug-ins appear on the initial list.

18. The system according to claim 16, wherein the plug-ins on the end list are started in an order corresponding to an order in which the plug-ins appear on the end list.

19. The system according to claim 16, wherein the starting element starts plug-ins unlisted on the initial list and the end list between the plug-ins on the initial list and the plug-ins on the end list.

20. The system according to claim 16, wherein the starting element starts plug-ins unlisted on the initial list and the end list after the plug-ins on the end list in response to a request

from a user.

21. A method of starting plug-ins, comprising the steps of:

reading a first set of plug-ins listed in an initial list;

reading a second set of plug-ins listed in an end list;

assembling a startup sequence from the first and second sets of plug-ins, wherein the first set of plug-ins is included in the startup sequence before the second set of plug-ins; and

starting the plug-ins in the order corresponding to the startup sequence.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the first set of plug-ins is null.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the second set of plug-ins is null.

24. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of:

reading a third set of plug-ins unlisted in the initial list and the end list, wherein the third set of plug-ins are included between the first set of plug-ins and the second set of

plug-ins in the startup sequence.

FOOTNOTES